

TO: Duane L. Shroufe, Director

FROM: Bob Broscheid, Assistant Director *jb*
Wildlife Management Division

PRESENTER: Leonard L. Ordway, Game Branch Chief

TITLE: Proposed Amendment to Commission Order 18 – Blue Grouse

DESCRIPTION: The Department is planning for blue grouse translocations and proposes to amend Commission order 18 – blue grouse to close hunting in units where the translocation will occur. The Commission may vote to take action on, or provide the Department direction on this item.

DATE: March 27, 2007

Summary:

At the April 2006 Commission meeting, the Commission authorized Commission order 18 – blue grouse for a two year period. The dates for this hunt in the upcoming year approved by the Commission are September 14-November 25, 2007.

The Department is working to obtain blue grouse for translocation into Units 4A and 5A. The goal of the translocation is to establish additional populations to expand wildlife hunting and viewing opportunity; there currently no evidence to indicate that this species game currently occurs in either of these units. The Department recommends that Commission order 18 be amended to provide blue grouse protection from hunting within these two units until a self sustaining population is established. The proposed amendment to Commission order 18 is as follows:

<u>Season Dates</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Open Areas</u>	<u>Legal Wildlife</u>
Sep 14-Nov 25, 2007	(1)	Open areas Statewide (except for Units 4A and 5A, National Wildlife Refuges, and Mohave County Park Lands)	Blue grouse

Notes: (1) The Grand Canyon-Parashant, Vermilion Cliffs, Sonoran Desert, Ironwood Forest, and Agua Fria National Monuments are open to hunting.

BAG LIMIT: Three (3) blue grouse per day.

POSSESSION LIMIT: Six (6) blue grouse of which no more than three (3) may be taken in any one day.

Proposed Amendment to Commission Order 18 for 2007-2008
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Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the Commission **VOTE TO AMEND COMMISSION ORDER 18 – BLUE GROUSE SEASONS, AS PROPOSED.**

BB:LO:bw

Attachment

Hunt Recommendations

Commission Order 18: Blue Grouse

General Blue Grouse

Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting under A.R.S. Sections 17-303 and 17-304 or Commission Rules R12-4-301, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.

Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Wildlife
Sep 14 - Nov 25, 2007	(1)	Open areas Statewide (except for Units 4A and 5A, National Wildlife Refuges, and Mohave County Park Lands)	Blue grouse

LAWFUL TAKING METHODS: Any lawful methods as prescribed in R12-4-304.

LICENSE REQUIRED: Any valid hunting license obtained from a license dealer.

Notes:

1. The Grand Canyon-Parashant, Vermilion Cliffs, Sonoran Desert, Ironwood Forest, and Agua Fria National Monuments are open to hunting.

BLUE GROUSE BAG LIMIT: Three (3) blue grouse per day.

BLUE GROUSE POSSESSION LIMIT: Six (6) blue grouse of which no more than three (3) may be taken in any one day.

ARIZONA HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM: As required by R12-4-203, blue grouse hunters shall have in their possession an Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp which will validate their license for the federal Harvest Information Program. The Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp may be obtained, for a cost of \$3.00 on or after July 1 of each year, from any Arizona Game and Fish Department office or wherever hunting licenses are sold.